

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:RAMOSHER:LCB

APPROVED BY EUR:JAARMITAGE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 242714

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, OES, BU

SUBJECT: ARMITAGE-POPOV MEETING, SEPTEMBER 24, 3 P.M.

1. POPOV BEGAN CONVERSATION WITH A BRIEF UPDATE ON THE THRACIAN GOLD EXHIBIT. HE ADVISED THAT CHARDAR DAMYANOV WOULD BE ARRIVING IN NEW YORK THE EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 25. POPOV HAD SUGGESTED THAT ZHIVKOVA'S ASSISTANT ON THE COMMITTEE FOR ART AND CULTURE, PEYU BERBENLIEV, MEET WITH THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM, BUT HE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO LEARN IF BERBENLIEV WILL BE ACCOMPANYING DAMYANOV. THE PRIMARY TOPIC WILL BE THE METROPOLITAN'S REPRODUCTION OF ITEMS IN THE COLLECTION. ARMITAGE NOTED THAT A SHOWING OF THE EXHIBIT IN SAN FRANCISCO, IF POSSIBLE, WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT ATTENTION-GETTER FOR THE BULGARIAN COMMERCIAL OFFICE. POPOV AGREED, BUT REMARKED THAT INDIVIDUALS IN SOFIA BELIEVED THAT THE COLLECTION SHOULD BE RETURNED TO BULGARIA RATHER THAN RISK THE POSSIBILITY OF DAMAGE OR DETERIORATION TO THE EXHIBIT.

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2. ARMITAGE COMMENTED THAT OUR EMBASSY IN SOFIA HAD REPORTED THAT THE GOB WAS STILL UNDECIDED AS TO THE SITE

OF THE PROPOSED COMMERCIAL OFFICE. HE ASKED POPOV TO PRESENT US WITH A NOTE DESIGNATING THE BULGARIAN CHOICE.

POPOV RESPONDED THAT THE GOB HAD CHOSEN SAN FRANCISCO AS THE SITE AND PROMISED TO PROVIDE A NOTE TO THAT AFFECT. HE ADVISED THAT WHILE HE HAD BEEN IN SOFIA INDIVIDUALS IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE REVIVED CHICAGO AS A POSSIBLE SITE DUE TO THE PRESENCE OF FMC. HOWEVER, BEFORE HIS RETURN TO U.S. POPOV WAS TOLD BY THE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER FOR TRADE THAT SAN FRANCISCO WAS THE FINAL CHOICE.

3. POPOV STATED THAT DURING THE JULY 1 MEETING WITH ARMITAGE, HE HAD BEEN ASKED TO CONFIRM NACHO PAPAZOV'S AGREEMENT TO A POSSIBLE U.S. VISIT AND TO SIGNING THE CULTURAL SCIENTIFIC AGREEMENT DURING SUCH A VISIT. POPOV ADVISED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THIS DURING HIS SEPTEMBER 10 MEETING WITH HARTMAN AND HAD SUGGESTED THAT A VISIT HOSTED BY THE PRESIDENT'S SCIENCE ADVISOR WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. POPOV NOTED THAT THIS FORMULA HAD BEEN FOLLOWED DURING A VISIT BY PAPAZOV'S POLISH COUNTER-PART. POPOV ALSO REPEATED GOB'S PREFERENCE FOR SIGNING THE AGREEMENT ASAP. ARMITAGE REPLIED THAT WE WOULD PREFER TO HAVE BOTH THE AGREEMENT AND THE PROGRAM DOCUMENT WRAPPED UP BEFORE ANYTHING WAS SIGNED. HE AGREED HOWEVER, TO LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF MOVING PROGRAM NEGOTIATIONS FORWARD PROMPTLY, BUT THAT THE PERIOD IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THE ELECTION IN NOVEMBER COULD PRESENT SCHEDULING PROBLEMS. (FYI - STEVER HAS MOVED FROM NSF TO DIRECT THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE. WE WILL SEE WHAT THE NSF ACTING HEAD IS PREPARED TO DO IN WAY OF HOSTING. STEVER WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY NOT WISH TO CONTINUE MUCH PROTOCOLARY ACTIVITY IN NEW POSITION. END FYI

4. IN RESPONSE TO POPOV'S QUESTION, ARMITAGE REPLIED THAT HE WAS UNABLE TO CONFIRM A POSSIBLE KISSINGER-MLADENOV UNGA MEETING. HE EMPHASIZED THAT DUE TO THE SECRETARY'S AFRICAN TRIP HIS SCHEDULE FOR NEW YORK WAS CONFIDENTIAL
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EXTREMELY UNSETTLED. HE RECOMMENDED THAT POPOV CONTACT HARTMAN, WHO WOULD BE IN NEW YORK FOR MOST OF THE FIRST WEEK OF THE UNGA. ARMITAGE ENDED THE CONVERSATION BY ASKING ABOUT THE BULGARIAN EXPERTS THAT WERE TO MEET WITH THE BONDHOLDERS COUNCIL, AND WITH OUR DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TO RESOLVE THE DOLLAR BONDS QUESTION AND DISCUSS A POSSIBLE STATEMENT ON AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION. POPOV PROMISED TO INQUIRE ABOUT PLANS FOR THE VISITE OF THESE TWO GROUPS. ROBINSON

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